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SOURCE

The East German Ministry of the Interior decreed in early January 1953 that, effective immediately, no water-craft leave the zone without a new shipbook. This proved necessary after the woman official in charge of shipbooks, had fled East Germany taking with her all pertinent documents. A new ship register must also be prepared. Source learned that the new shipbooks would be issued only after careful checks on shipmasters and skippers, and their relations with West Germany. The Ministry of the Interior in its decree, made the Ministry of Traffic responsible for each holder of a new shipbook.

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